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black-ly (blăk'li), *adv.* with a black or dark appearance; darkly; gloomily; wickedly.

black magic, magic used for evil purposes.

black-mail (blăk'mail), *n.* 1. *Law.* a. any payment extorted by intimidation, as by threats of injurious revelations or accusations. b. the extortion of such payment. 2. a tribute formerly exacted in the north of England and in Scotland by freebooting chiefs for protection from pillage. —*v.t.* 3. to extort blackmail from. [f. BLACK + mail coin, rent (ME *maille*, *t.* OF)] —black/mail'er, *n.*

Black Maria (mări'ə), *Colloq.* a closed vehicle used for conveying prisoners to and from jail.

black mark, a mark of failure or censure.

black market, an illegal market violating price controls, rationing, etc.

black measles, *Pathol.* a malignant form of measles.

Blackmore (blăk'mōr), *n.* Richard Doddridge (dōd'ri), 1825-1900, British novelist.

Black Mountains, a mountain range in W North Carolina: a part of the Appalachian system. Highest peak, Mt. Mitchell, 6711 ft.

black nightshade, a common weed, *Solanum nigrum*, with white flowers and black edible berries.

black-out (blăk'out), *n.* 1. *Mil.* the extinguishing of all visible lights in a city, etc., as a war protection. 2. *Theat.* the extinguishing of all stage lights. 3. unconsciousness, esp. in aviation. 4. loss of memory.

black pepper, a hot, sharp condiment prepared from the dried berries of a tropical vine, *Piper nigrum*.

black-poll (blăk'pōl), *n.* a North American warbler, *Dendroica striata*, the adult male of which has the top of the head black.

Black-pool (blăk'pōol), *n.* a seaport in NW England, in Lancashire: resort, 150,340 (est. 1946).

Black Prince, 1330-76, Edward, Prince of Wales (the son of Edward III of England).

Black Rod, 1. (in England) an usher (gentleman usher of the black rod) of the King's chamber, the Order of the Garter, and the House of Lords (so called from the rod he carries). 2. a similar official in British colonial legislatures.

Black Sea, a sea S of E Europe, bounded by the Soviet Union, Turkey, Rumania, and Bulgaria. ab. 164,000 sq. mi.; greatest depth, ab. 7200 ft. Also, Euxine Sea. Ancient, Pontus Euxinus.

black sheep, a person worthless despite good background.

Black Shirt, *Europ.* *Hist.* a member of a fascist organization in Europe, such as the Italian fascist militia, or Hitler's Schutzstaffel.

black-smith (blăk'smith), *n.* 1. a person who makes horseshoes and shoes horses. 2. an artisan who works in iron. [f. BLACK (in ref. to iron or black metal) + smith]. Cf. WHITESMITH]

black-snake (blăk'snăk'), *n.* 1. a nonvenomous snake, *Coluber constrictor*, of the U. S., attaining a length of 5 to 6 ft., and notably agile and strong. 2. any of various other snakes of a black or very dark color. 3. U. S. a heavy, tapering, flexible whip of braided cowhide or the like. Also, black snake.

black spruce, 1. a conifer of North America, *Picea mariana*, noted for its extremely dark green needles. 2. an easily worked light wood from this tree.

Black-stone (blăk'stōn, -stōn), *n.* Sir William, 1723-80, British judge and writer on law.

black-tail (blăk'tail), *n.* the mule deer.

black tea, a tea which has been allowed to wither and ferment in the air for some time, before being subjected to a heating process.

black-thorn (blăk'thōrn'), *n.* 1. a much-branched, thorny shrub of the Old World *Prunus spinosa*, bearing white flowers and small plumlike fruits; sloe. 2. a species of the genus *Crataegus*, as *C. tomentosa*.

Black Volta. See Volta (def. 2).

black vomit, *Pathol.* 1. a dark-colored substance, consisting chiefly of altered blood, vomited in some cases of yellow fever, usually presaging a fatal issue of the disease. 2. act of throwing up this matter. 3. the disease itself.

Black-wall hitch (blăk'wōl'), a hitch made with a rope over a hook so that it holds fast when pulled but is loose otherwise. See illus. under knot.

black walnut, 1. a tree, *Juglans nigra*, of North America, which yields a valuable timber. 2. the nut thereof. 3. the wood of this tree.

black-water fever (blăk'wō'tar, -wōt'ar), *Pathol.* a severe form of malaria found chiefly in the tropics but occasionally in the southern U. S.

black-weed (blăk'wēd'), *n.* the common ragweed.

Black-wells Island (blăk'wēlz, -wēlz), former name of Welfare Island.

black whale, a dolphinlike cetacean of the genus *Globicephalus*; a blackfish.

black widow, a poisonous female spider, *Latrodectus mactans*, common in the U. S., that eats its mate.

blad-der (blăd'ər), *n.* 1. *Anat., Zool.* a. a distensible pelvic sac with membranous and muscular walls, for storage and expulsion of urine secreted by the kidneys. b. any similar sac or receptacle. 2. *Pathol.* a vesicle, blister, cyst, etc., filled with fluid or air. 3. *Bot.* a sac or the like containing air, as in certain seaweeds. 4. anything inflated, empty, or unsound. [ME: OE *blēdre* bladder, blister, akin to blow, *v.*, BLAST] —blad-/der-less, *adj.* —blad-/der-like, *adj.* —blad-/der-y, *adj.*

bladder campion, a plant, *Silene latifolia* (Silent *inflata*), so called for its inflated calyx.

bladder ket-mia (kēt'miə), a cultivated annual plant, *Hibiscus Trionum*, with a bladdery calyx.

blad-der-nose (blăd'ər-nōz'), *n.* a large scall, *Cystophora cristata*, of the northern Atlantic, the male of which has a large, distensible, hoodlike sac upon its head; the hooded seal.

blad-der-nut (blăd'ər-nit'), 1. the bladderlike fruit capsule of any shrub or small tree of the genus *Staphylea*, as *S. trifolia* of the eastern U. S. 2. the shrub itself.

bladder worm, *Zool.* the bladderlike encysted larva of a tapeworm; a cysticercus, coenurus, or hydatid.

blad-der-wort (blăd'ər-wōrt'), *n.* any of various herbs of the large genus *Utricularia*, including aquatic, terrestrial, and epiphytic forms throughout the world.

blade (blăd), *n.* 1. the flat cutting part of sword, knife, etc. 2. a sword. 3. the leaf of a plant, esp. of a grass or cereal. 4. *Bot.* the broad part of a leaf, as distinguished from the stalk or petiole. See illus. under leaf. 5. a thin, flat part of something, as of an oar or a bone. 6. a dashing, swaggering, or rakish young fellow. 7. *Anat.* the scapula or shoulder blade. 8. *Phonet.* the upper surface and edges of the tongue for a short distance back from the tip. [ME: OE *blad*, *c.* G *blatt*] —blad-/ed, *adj.* —blade-/less, *adj.* —blade-/like, *adj.*

Blagoveshchensk (blăg'vōsh'chēnsk'), *n.* a city in the SE Soviet Union in Asia, on the Amur river, 58,761 (1939).

blah (blā), *n.* U. S. Slang. nonsense; rubbish.

blain (blān), *n.* *Pathol.* an inflammatory swelling or sore. [ME *bleine*, OE *blegen*]

Blaine (blān), *n.* James Gillespie (gī'lēs'pī), 1830-1893, U. S. statesman.

Blake (blāk), *n.* 1. Robert, 1599-1657, British admiral. 2. William, 1757-1827, British poet and artist.

blam-a-ble (blă'məbəl), *adj.* deserving blame; censurable. —blam-/a-ble-ness, *n.* —blam-/a-ble-y, *adj.*

blame (blām), *v.* blamed, blaming, *n.* —*v.t.* 1. to lay the responsibility of (a fault, error, etc.) on a person: I blame the accident on him. 2. to find fault with; censure: I don't blame you for doing that. 3. U. S. Slang and Dial. to blast (as a humorous imperative or optative): Blame my hide if I go. —*n.* 4. imputation of fault; censure. 5. responsibility for censure. [ME *blamen*, *t.* OF: m. *blasmer*, *g.* LL *blasphemāre* BLASPHEME]

—*Syn.* 1. 2. reproach, reprove, reprehend. BLAME, CENSURE, CONDEMN imply finding fault with someone (or something). TO BLAME is to hold accountable for, and disapprove because of, some error, mistake, omission, neglect, or the like: who is to blame for the disaster? The verb CENSURE differs from the noun in connoting scolding or rebuking even more than adverse criticism: to censure one for extravagance. TO CONDEMN is to express an adverse (esp. legal) judgment, without recourse: to condemn conduct, a building, a man to death. 4. reprehension, condemnation, stricture. 5. guilt, culpability, fault. —*Ant.* 2. praise.

blamed (blāmd), U. S. Slang and Dial. —*adj.* 1. confounded. —*adv.* 2. confoundedly; excessively.

blame-ful (blām'fəl), *adj.* deserving blame. —blame-/ful-ly, *adv.* —blame-/ful-ness, *n.*

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blame-wor-thy (blām'wōr'thi), *adj.* deserving blame. —blame-/wor-/thi-ness, *n.*

Blanc (blān), *n.* 1. Jean Joseph Charles Louis (zhān zhōzēf' shārē lwē), 1811-82, French socialist and historian. 2. Mont (mōn), a mountain on the French-Italian border: the highest peak of the Alps, 15,781 ft.

Blanca Peak (blāng'kə), a mountain in S Colorado: the highest peak in the Sangre de Cristo range, 14,390 ft.

blanch (blānch, blānch), *v.t.* 1. to whiten by removing color. 2. *Hort.* to whiten or prevent from becoming green by excluding the light (a process applied to the stems or leaves of plants, such as celery, lettuce, etc.). 3. to remove the skin from (nuts, fruits, etc.) by immersion in boiling water, then in cold. 4. to separate (the grains or strands of rice, macaroni, etc.) by immersing in boiling water, then in cold. 5. to scald (meat, etc.). 6. *Metal.* to give a white luster to (metals), as by means of acids. 7. to make pale, as with sickness or fear. —*v.i.* 8. to become white; turn pale. [ME *blanche* (*n.*), *t.* OF: m. *blanchir*, *der.* *blanc* white. See BLANK] —blanch-/er, *n.* —*Syn.* 1. See whiten.

blanc-mange (blāmānz', -mānz'), *n.* a jellylike preparation of milk thickened with cornstarch, gelatin, or the like, and flavored. [ME *blanmanger*, *t.* OF: m. *blanc-manger*, *lit.* white food]

bland (blānd), *adj.* 1. gentle or agreeable, as of persons. 2. soothing or balmy, as air. 3. nonirritating, as food or medicines. 4. nonstimulating, as medicines. [f. L: *s.* *blandus*] —bland-/ly, *adv.* —bland-/ness, *n.* —*Syn.* 1. suave, urbane. 3. soft, mild.

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